

Neighbor to Neighbor

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Our Mission

Working in partnership with the community to provide public safety services which enhance the safety, security, and quality of life of the community.

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It's true what they say,...
***"One man's trash,
is another man's treasure"***

By Julie Carrasco, *Crime Prevention Specialist*

Just like the daffodils and tulips, garage sales will soon begin to pop up between the Spring showers. Longer days, the more frequent appearance of the sun, fresh cut grass, and the renewing color of our landscapes seems to stir the urge to purge the old, and unused items in our lives. Besides, who doesn't like a little extra cash in the pocket? But if you think your weekend business venture is immune to thieves, think again! Thieves can find a lot of value in the opportunities you give them.

Some things to think about, as you prepare for your garage sale:

- ◆ Join with other neighbors to have a "neighborhood-wide" garage sale. Not only should it draw more customers, but it will bring more eyes to your event – neighbors looking out for neighbors.
- ◆ Make it a family-affair and assign family members (or friends) to certain tasks. For example:
 - One person is in charge of taking money and watching over the money box.
 - One person is in charge of assisting shoppers.
 - One person is in charge of "watching" and making sure no one strays into areas that are off-limits.
- ◆ Hold your sale outside of the garage, and close the door. You'll increase visibility, and make it more difficult for thieves to slip inside your home, or steal other items that are not for sale. If you hold the sale in your garage, make sure it's clearly marked to direct people to stay within a designated area of the garage (or property). Clearly mark anything that is not part of the sale.

"One man's trash is another man's treasure"

Continued...

- ◆ Don't stay in one place. Move around to increase your visibility.
- ◆ Avoid running into the house to answer the phone. Have your phone with you.
- ◆ Don't allow shoppers to go into your house to use the bathroom, phone, or try on clothes.
- ◆ Don't accept *personal* or *third-party* checks. Typically, cash is best. If they need to go to the ATM, offer to *hold* the item(s) for a short time. Use a *counterfeit money detection marker*.
- ◆ Don't leave the money box unattended. Occasionally take big bills or large amounts of money into the house to avoid displaying large amounts of cash.
- ◆ Lock your doors (even from the garage to your home) and windows.
- ◆ Report anyone who looks suspicious or who is attempting to sell your merchandise.
- ◆ If someone demands your money and threatens to hurt you, don't fight it. Hand the money over. It's not worth you being hurt. Get a good description of the person and vehicle being driven (especially the plate number), note the direction of travel, and any weapons, and then CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY!
- ◆ Take everything back into the garage after each day of sales. Don't leave anything out.

GRAFFITI

Don't let it leave a mark in your neighborhood

By Julie Carrasco, *Crime Prevention Specialist*

Graffiti is *ugly, aggravating, frustrating, expensive, time consuming...*all words that most people can identify with, even police. But if you've ever had your property marked by this crime, the feelings can understandably go much deeper. Be assured, Hillsboro Police is working hard to see these individuals are prosecuted, and YOU can help!

First, if you see *graffiti in progress*, immediately call 9-1-1. Remember, it's a crime.

Don't leave graffiti unreported. Police need each incident reported in order to build solid cases against prolific graffiti offenders. If you notice graffiti after the fact, report it to non-emergency police (503-629-0111). If you see someone with graffiti tools (spray paint cans, large markers, etc), they may be looking for a place to make their mark. That kind of suspicious behavior warrants a call to police.

Although City Code requires removal of graffiti within seven days of placement, Hillsboro Police would like to see it removed within 24 to 48 hours. If you want to remove the graffiti immediately, you can take a photo to provide to the responding officer upon arrival or at a later time. Bottom line, the longer graffiti stays up, the more graffiti it encourages. You may clean it up one day, and the next day it's back. It sometimes happens, but please don't give up. Persistence can pay off!

Understandably, many people would like to see the person responsible clean up their own graffiti. Unfortunately, this is not common practice and only gains further notoriety for the tagger. Furthermore, the time involved in preparing cases for prosecution can be lengthy. Graffiti allowed to remain will increase neighborhood blithe. The clean up process must occur sooner.

If you're a victim of this nuisance crime, and an officer has taken a report, you will receive a friendly "*Graffiti Courtesy Removal Notice*" from Code Enforcement. Please don't be offended. They acknowledge your frustration, and want to provide you ample time to remove the graffiti. If you have a physical or financial hardship, and need help removing graffiti, contact Hillsboro Police Code Enforcement (503-681-6175) to request assistance.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

POLICE IMPERSONATIONS

A rare occurrence, but knowing what to look for during a traffic stop can protect you from an impersonator's harmful intentions.

By Sgt Diana Foesch, Traffic Safety Division and Oregon State Police

With technology today, and access to the internet to purchase illegal items, people try to impersonate police officers for a variety of reasons. Some people want to emulate being a police officer because they admire the position or they want to feel authoritative. Unfortunately though, most police impersonators impersonate a police officer to commit a crime against a citizen. To help protect yourself, here's a list of some tips provided by the Oregon State Police.

Tips for Protecting You from Law Enforcement Impersonators

Those who impersonate police officers erode the public's trust in law enforcement and may endanger unsuspecting people. There are several tips you can remember to protect yourself during a traffic stop, while helping your police officers do their jobs.

Being stopped by a police officer can be nerve racking, but try to remain calm and focus on the situation.

- ◆ Make sure it is a marked police unit. If it is not a marked unit, the emergency lights should be built in and are usually not a temporary light placed on the vehicle. The built in emergency lights will be blue and red in color, but will not always be on top of the car. Sometimes they are built into the interior of the car but again, they will be red and blue lights.
- ◆ A marked police patrol car will almost always have license plates that start with an "E."
- ◆ Try to stop in a well-lit area or a location where there are a lot of people present.
- ◆ Turn on your emergency flashers, but don't turn off your car.
- ◆ Don't get out of the vehicle to meet the officer. Officers usually don't like this anyway.
- ◆ Lock your door.
- ◆ Look for a uniform, official department jacket, and other equipment used by police officers for the performance of their duties. If in uniform, they will be displaying a badge that says Hillsboro Police. Ask the officer to show you their police identification. You should review it carefully. If you are still unsure, you can always call the non-emergency dispatch number. In Washington County, it's 503-629-0111.
- ◆ If the officer is in plainclothes, look for identifying clothing and equipment. If unsure, explain to the "officer" that you are unsure about the situation and ask them to display official department identification and badge. Ask where they work and if you can contact their dispatch center to confirm their identity. You may also request a marked patrol unit respond.
- ◆ Pay attention to what they are asking. Most officers should advise you of the reason for the stop and request your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.
- ◆ If they immediately tell you to get out of the car, without any preliminary questions, you should be suspicious.
- ◆ Trust your instincts. If they don't seem to be a real police officer, they are probably not. If you think you're in imminent danger, leave and call 9-1-1.

Municipal CODE Enforcement

Biodiesel: Fueling SAFETY and Sustainability

By Don Pierce, Police Field Operations Specialist

It's been said that vehicles that run on biodiesel smell like french-fries. Sign me up! That's enough to make anyone want to do their part to keep the planet green! The City of Hillsboro takes pride in encouraging sustainable practices and promoting responsible stewardship of our planet.

Often, responsible behavior occurs at the expense of convenience and crisis births change. When gas prices rise, and remain high for prolonged periods of time, people look for alternatives. Some turn to public transportation, some to the new electric vehicles, and others look at making their own fuel.

The last option, homemade fuel, is a concern for Code Enforcement. Times change and the risk associated with that change must be assessed and minimized. Recently, the City of Hillsboro has become aware of several home biodiesel refining facilities inside attached garages. Although Fire Codes regulate the commercial activity of fuel production, there are no regulations for manufacturing for personal use. The refining process involves feedstock (such as waste vegetable oil), an alcohol (most often methanol), and a catalyst (sodium hydroxide or lye). Fat or oil will react with alcohol, called esterification, the result of which is used as fuel. A catalyst is used to increase the speed and yield of this process. "Home-brew" kits are readily available on the web. It can be somewhat messy but is relatively simple. Neighbors become apprehensive once



they become aware that their neighbor's hobby presents with potential explosive hazards. Canby, Forest Grove, and Oak Grove have all suffered major fires associated with biofuel production since 2009. The City's desire to encourage green technology must, of course, be balanced with public safety. To that end, the City of Hillsboro created the *Non-Commercial Biodiesel Code*.

The new regulation permits production of biodiesel for personal use, but limits the quantity of combustible/flammable/caustic material that can be kept on-hand. By limiting the quantities of hazardous materials, the risk to neighbors is minimized

as well. The maximum allowable quantity of feedstock oil, finished product, or alcohol product is 120 gallons each. The maximum amount of catalyst must not exceed 50 pounds. All materials must be stored and used in a manner consistent with, and conforming to, all state and local regulations, city policies, recommended safety standards and common practices.

For more information on the *Non-Commercial Biodiesel Code*, contact Hillsboro Police (503-681-6175) or Hillsboro Fire (503-681-6166).

**For information on other
Hillsboro Municipal Codes, call 503-615-6645
or Non-Emergency Dispatch at 503-629-0111.**

You may also visit

<http://qcode.us/codes/hillsboro/>



THE VALUE OF HONEST, RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION and using Feedback

By Nancy Steffen, Hillsboro Police Volunteer Mediator

You can benefit by learning and using good communication skills, not just when the going gets tough, but all the time. Using good skills builds good relationships. Relationships where the parties strive to do the best job they can are likely to be more honest and respectful. Being a confident communicator also relieves stress.

The surprising thing about communicating is that it is not just you talking. For real communication to take place, the message has to be sent *and* received. If you're sending your message in such a way (i.e. shouting, talking down, judging, evaluating, belittling) that doesn't invite being listened to, you may think you sent your message but all you may have sent is some resentment and anger.

Giving "feedback" is not always an easy thing to do. Many people are uncomfortable with giving feedback, even of the positive variety. If you need to give negative, or what I like to call "hard to hear" feedback your little inner voice may say, "if I tell them how I feel they may get mad, or yell at me, or even not want to be my friend, co-worker (whatever) anymore." But it is a skill you can learn and gain in your mastery just like riding a bicycle. Building better relationships and reducing your stress are pretty good reasons to try.

A good definition of feedback for this purpose is:

Communicating information to a person about how that person appears or affects other people. It is about deciding "Who am I" and helping to consider whether or not to change behavior that is inconsistent with one's intentions or perceptions. Feedback helps to maintain relationships, promotes closeness and increases awareness of self and one's affect on another person.

In order to maximize your chances of being heard you need to make sure your message is expressed the right way. For example:

"Gosh darn it, your garbage is all over everywhere again and I'm sick and tired of it!" OR...

"I noticed that the last three garbage days the lid to your can was missing and garbage blew all over, including into my yard and I had to pick it up. Would you be willing to discuss a resolution to this?"

The whole idea is to OPEN UP the communication; not close it down. To which example would you be more likely to respond?

Stay tuned. In the next Common Ground, you'll learn techniques for giving and receiving feedback that will keep your communication with others honest and respectful.



Out Reach



Citizens' Academy

Fostering greater understanding, citizens get an up close look at law enforcement, and learn how and why officers make the decisions they do.



Out Reach

K9 Rikko takes a break from Patrol to enjoy some attention from local preschoolers

Officer Scott Brennan and K9 Rikko recently visited Harvest Preschool at the Harvest Community Church, in Hillsboro for a K9 demonstration. In front of a captive audience of about fifteen children, Officer Brennan talked about what a police officer does, as well as how a police K9 does their job. The preschool class was able to see the tools police officers use and also equipment specifically associated with K9 officers, such as the bite sleeve, bulletproof vest, dog toys, and different styles of leashes. All the students were provided the opportunity to pet Rikko, which they eagerly took advantage of. This was arguably the best part of the demo for Rikko.



TRY Students Experience HPD Specialty Units

TRY stands for Team Recreational Youth. It's a leadership group of middle school-aged kids who are interested in volunteer service and learning more about their community. On March 5th, TRY students visited Hillsboro Police, and were given a chance to explore a patrol vehicle and police motorcycle, some Tactical Negotiations Team tools, and dust for fingerprints, as well as interact with K9 Odie. TRY is a Hillsboro Parks and Recreation program.



Looking Ahead



LEADERS NEEDED to mentor young children at

Safety Town

A week-long, half-day safety camp for five and six year olds.

Session One: June 24th-28th

Session Two: July 15th-19th

Peter Boscow Conference Center

Presented by Hillsboro Police and Hillsboro Parks and Recreation
For more information, contact Julie Carrasco 503-615-6756

SHRED IT!

Saturday, May 4th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Hillsboro Post Office

Suggested
donation
\$5

A benefit for Safe Kids Washington County

**Secure Document Shredding Onsite
Two Banker Box Limit**

Presented by Hillsboro Police in partnership with



Beaverton | Forest Grove | Hillsboro
Tigard | Tualatin | Washington County

Landlord Forums

*Better manage your rental property.
Network w/other landlords.
Partner w/local law enforcement.*

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
at PCC Willowcreek Campus**



March 13th
*Domestic Violence
on Rental Properties*

April 10th
*Gang Issues inside
Washington County*

ALSO: Legal questions answered
by Attorney Jeffrey S. Bennett

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

911
Emergencies

Dispatch
Non-Emergency
503-629-0111

Hillsboro Police
Records
503-681-6175

Hillsboro Police
Code Enforcement
503-615-6645

Hillsboro Police
Volunteer Services
503-681-6474

Hillsboro Police
Graffiti Removal
Assistance (hardship)
503-681-5395

Washington County
Animal Services
503-846-7041

Community Enhancement Team

CET is committed to working with its residential and business partners to facilitate community excellence through safety education, crime prevention, resource assistance, and problem-solving.

Forming Partnerships
Building Relationships
Enhancing Livability

Crime Prevention Specialists

Residential Community

Julie Carrasco

julie.carrasco@hillsboro-oregon.gov

503-615-6756

Brandi Gilbert

brandi.gilbert@hillsboro-oregon.gov

503-615-6785

Business Community

Earleen Reimann

earleen.reimann@hillsboro-oregon.gov

503-681-5207

Police Program Specialist

Mediation and

Youth Peer Court

503-615-6797

Police Program Coordinators

Susie Serres

Volunteer Services

susan.serres@hillsboro-oregon.gov

503-681-6474

Sharon Brown

Domestic Violence Program Coordinator

sharon.brown@hillsboro-oregon.gov

503-615-6740

Hillsboro Police Department

West Precinct

250 SE 10th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Phone: 503-681-6175

Fax: 503-681-6260

East Precinct

20795 NW Cornell Road, Suite 100
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

HPD Website

<http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/police>

Like Us and Follow Us

on

Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/hillsboropd

www.twitter.com/HillsboroPolice